

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

From the Division of Data Policy Management and Research



December 2003

STIState Project:

KDE and STI have begun preparing for the implementation of STIState. What is STIState? The STIState process will aggregate data from each of the 176 school districts into a state level centralized database through an automated mechanism. STIState will provide for the assignment of a unique student ID to all students and will provide a statewide-centralized enrollment program.

The benefit to school districts will include ease of access to student records as students move from one school to another, reduction of the number of files submitted for required state and federal reports, and ability to systematically assign a unique student ID to each student in Kentucky.



What is Max doing?

Max, a data warehouse project, partnered by KDE (Kentucky Department of Education), EPSB (Education Professional Standards Board) and CPE (Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education), is designed to provide all users with the information necessary to help improve Kentucky students' P-16 (pre-kindergarten through college) academic performance. Max is in its infancy stage, but is gearing up for its next major release. Please visit the Max web site http://kdemaxport2.kde.state.ky.us:7777/servlet/page?_pageid=162,164&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30 to find out about upcoming reports and enhancements to Max.

A data warehouse is a central repository of customer data from diverse sources that is never "finished", but constantly growing. There are always new business questions to be answered and needs to be addressed. The warehouse is built in phases that are generally designed to answer a specific set of questions. A warehouse is built to provide detailed, integrated data for analysis and strategic decision-making - understanding what has happened to influence what will happen. Ultimately Max will allow users and decision-makers to identify trends and

relationships in data so they can anticipate what will happen and be proactive rather than reactive.

Max's builders are always looking for ideas to include in the Max system. Input from the users is a major tool for determining what to add. THUG, The Helpful Users Group, was formed just for that purpose. THUG is a group of individuals from different areas of education and the community formed to identify the needs of Max users and spread awareness of what Max offers to the educational community.

Max's primary objective is to impact student performance by providing the right information, to the right users, in the right way, at the right time. Working together the builders and users of Max will help Kentucky's students achieve a brighter future.



Location Number Request:

To request a location number, the superintendent must submit the school name, school address, city, state, zip, phone number, FAX number, grade range, type of school, effective date of activation, magnet/or not, and the administrator name in writing to Debbie Weber via e-mail <mailto:dweber@kde.state.ky.us>, fax (502-564-9166), or by U.S. mail to the 17th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601. The superintendent should also send written notification to Debbie Weber of any changes in the school information (grade span change, telephone number change, closing, etc.) in order to keep the school data current.



KTLC:

The Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference (KTLC) is scheduled for March 4-6, 2004, in Louisville. KTLC will offer hands-on activities and programs designed to support higher levels of student achievement as well as connect with Kentucky's Standards and Indicators for School Improvement. Registration materials will be available in December. Don't forget to make plans to attend. DPMR will be involved in the following sessions:

SESSIONS:

STIState: SOS - State of STIState

This session is an overview of how this "behind the scenes" module will process centralized enrollment, student identifiers, and state reporting.

Those Darn Data Standards!

This session will detail the new data standards that will be required in STIOffice for the 2004-05 school year.

SSID: Sending Student Information Discreetly

This session will describe how assigning a unique student ID will benefit the district by assisting in transfer of student records from one school to another, locating students that have withdrawn to another school, and performing longitudinal analysis on students from preschool through college.

Secure Eye for the Data Guy

This session will offer guidance on implementing security within STIOffice/District to ensure that only those individuals within your school/district that should have access to specific student information do, by setting up security groups.

Max - ED's Best Friend

This session will show how Max can assist all education partners in making informed data driven decisions.

Survivor USA (Understanding Student Attendance)

This session is designed for attendance clerks who are responsible for entering student specific data into the STIOffice system. It will be presented jointly with staff from the Pupil Attendance Branch.

In addition, we have worked with STI to provide the following workshops:

What Makes STI Work?

This workshop is intended to provide a technical understanding of what needs to be done to maintain STI programs installed in schools/districts. Attendees will discuss technical issues such as dealing with file corruption, controlling directory access, and common technical support issues. Presented by STI staff.

Hands on Lab with STI Programs

This workshop is intended to provide attendees with an opportunity to ask questions and receive assistance in a lab environment. STI support/training staff will be on-site to demonstrate software functionality of STIOffice, DistrictSETS and STIDistrict and work through any issues a user may have with any of the programs. Presented by STI staff.



What is coming around the corner?

Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), for fall graduates, is due January 30, 2004. Michelle Sutherland (also known as "Moe") is the new KEES Contact for the Department of Education. Districts with early graduates need to send their KEES file to the Data Reports Mailbox at <mailto:datarepo@kde.state.ky.us>.

Staff Scoop:

Kimberly Raybon (also known as "Ray") is a Resource Management Analyst II for Data Policy Management and Research. She is a part of the Business Requirements team where she is helping to construct the Max Enterprise Data System. She's originally from Milwaukee, WI where she graduated from Riverside University High School. She then went on to Kentucky State University where she obtained her Bachelor's of Arts in Business Administration. Kimberly also met her husband while attending KSU. She is now the proud mother of a son, age 4, and a daughter, age 2. Kimberly is currently studying for her Master's of Arts in Health Studies and Communications. With her interest in health, she will be providing the health/safety tips in each newsletter.

Tech Tip:

How do I open an Excel file in Internet Explorer (IE)?

IE Recognizes Excel Files. If you have an existing Excel file on your server, you don't need to do anything special to view it in IE.

If you don't want IE to open Excel inside the browser window, you can save the worksheet to an HTML file.

You may save Excel files as web pages if you need to deliver Excel data to non-IE browsers. In Excel, open the worksheet you want to make available on the Web, select Save As from the File menu. Select Web Page from the Save As type dropdown list, and select a file name.

Laughter for Your Health:

Whether it's a hearty laugh or a chuckle, laughter can contribute to better health. Stanford University researchers found that "twenty seconds of guffawing gives the heart the same workout as three minutes of hard rowing." Joke with your family, coworkers and friends - humor is contagious and it's good for you.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



This and future issues of *NEWS YOU CAN USE!* may be found on the KDE web site. Just go to the Data Policy Management and Research page at <http://www.kentuckyschools.net/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Data+and+Research/default.htm> and click on "Newsletters".

Please let us hear from you! Suggestions for newsletter topics may be forwarded to Debbie Weber at <mailto:dweber@kde.state.ky.us>.